ENNISKILLEN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 4 May 1860;—*for*,

COPIES "of all CORRESPONDENCE that has taken place with the Post Office Authorities, and all PETITIONS and MEMORIALS which have been presented from Places lying to the extreme North-west of *Enniskillen*, and which pray that the POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS may be improved, which preclude their answering Letters the Day of Receipt, as well as all Plans and Suggestions that have been transmitted to the Post Office Authorities for improving the Communications with those neglected regions, and all Answers which have been returned to the same during the last Eighteen Months."

General Post Office, 11 June 1860.

FREDERIC HILL, Assistant Secretary.

MEMORANDUM presented to the Postmaster General on 15 July 1859.

THAT a train should leave Dublin for Enniskillen at such an hour as to reach Enniskillen at 12 (night). That a train should leave Londonderry at such an hour as to reach Enniskillen at the same hour. That the mails from the west of Donegal and Sligo should be so arranged as to arrive at Enniskillen at the same hour. That Enniskillen should be the general sorting office for the north-west of Ireland, and an hour be allowed for sorting. That the trains or other conveyances which had brought in either the up or down mails to Enniskillen, be ready to return with them at 1 a.m.

(signed) *Thomas Conolly.*
E. S. Hayes.

MEMORIAL from the Inhabitants of *Donegal*, &c., to the Right Honourable the Postmaster General.

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of Donegal and its vicinity, beg to represent to you the extreme inconvenience to which we are subjected by the present postal arrangements.

With regard to the Dublin mail, the time which elapses between the delivery of letters by the down mail and the closing of the post office for the despatch of the up, is so short, that persons engaged in business are constantly unable to answer their correspondents by return of post. We therefore hope that the Post Office authorities, by taking advantage of the completion of the Dundalk and Enniskillen Railway, will give us greater facilities in this respect.

Our correspondence with Londonderry, the post with which and through which our principal trade is carried on, is still more unsatisfactory; as, although the distance between the two towns is only 36 miles, one-third of which is railway, an interchange of letters at present occupies three days; we therefore hope that this will also be taken into consideration.

(signed) *John Hamilton*, D. L. & J. P.
and 26 others.

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MEMORIAL from the Inhabitants of *Mountcharles*, &c., to the Right Honourable the Postmaster General.

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of Mountcharles and its vicinity, beg to represent the inconvenience to which we are subjected by the present postal arrangements. Letters from London or Dublin reach us so late, that we are unable to answer them on the same day, and our communication with Derry is so arranged, that, although the distance is only 40 miles, of which a considerable portion is railway, a letter cannot be answered in less than three days. The opening of the railway to Enniskillen will enable the Post Office authorities to apply a remedy to our first grievance; and we think that it will not be difficult to mitigate the second. We therefore trust that your Lordship will be so good as to take measures for our relief.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *W Sinclair*, J. P.
and 36 others.

MEMORIAL from the Inhabitants of *Killybegs*, &c., to the Right Honourable the Postmaster General.

My Lord,

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of Killybegs and its vicinity, beg to lay before your Lordship the inconvenience to which we are subjected by the present postal arrangements.

The Dublin mail is at present despatched at such an early hour that letters for it must be posted on the previous day, although they remain from 10 a. m. until 2 p. m. in the Donegal post-office, letters from Dublin arriving at half-past 2 p. m.; whereas, if the Post Office authorities would avail themselves of the railway now open to Enniskillen, letters might be delivered in Killybegs and answers returned the same day. With regard to the communication with the city of Londonderry, which is the great market of our agricultural produce, we are still worse off, as an answer to a letter cannot in regular course of post be obtained in less than four days, although the distance between the two towns is only 50 miles.

We trust that it may not be considered presumptuous in us to point out that this might be remedied by despatching the up mail from Killybegs at such an hour, that the letters for Londonderry might meet the down mail from Dublin at Enniskillen, and *vice versâ*.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *R. Hamilton*, J. P.
and 25 others.

MEMORIAL from the Inhabitants of *Dunfanaghy*, &c., to the Right Honourable the Earl of *Colchester*, Postmaster General.

The MEMORIAL of the Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of *Dunfanaghy*, County *Donegal*.

WE, the undersigned, beg to lay before your Lordship the position of our locality as to arrival and despatch of our mails, and to beg that such a change may be made as will enable us to reply to our letters the same day that we receive them.

The Dublin mail arrives in Dunfanaghy about half an hour after the despatch of the mail from Dunfanaghy to Dublin, thus rendering it impossible to reply to our letters for 24 hours after we receive them, and we have had it thus for years.

Now

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Now that the railway has been opened all the way from Dublin to Strabane, we pray your Lordship to confer on us this boon, which has been granted to most parts of the United Kingdom.

And Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed) *Alex. J. R. Stewart*, D. L., J. P.
and 35 others.

Mr. *Tilley* to Mr. *Conolly*, M. P.

Sir, General Post Office, 6 September 1859.

The Postmaster General has carefully considered the subject of the memorandum which you placed in his hands on the 15th July last, together with the memorials from Donegal, Mountcharles, Killybegs and Dunfanaghy, and I am directed to inform you that his Lordship regrets that the expense which would be involved by the establishment of the proposed night mail train between Castlehlaney and Omagh, *viâ* Enniskillen, would very far exceed the amount which the correspondence would warrant.

That part of the memorials from Mountcharles, Killybegs and Dunfanaghy, which relates to the question of an alteration in the local communication, is still under consideration.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Tilley.*

Mr. *Frederic Hill* to Mr. *Conolly*, M.P.

Sir, General Post Office, 16 September 1859.

Referring to the memorials from Mountcharles, Killybegs, and Dunfanaghy, presented by you, and to my letter of the 6th instant, I am directed by the Postmaster General to explain that if the car from Donegal which serves Mountcharles and Killybegs were fitted to the despatch of the Dublin mail, according to the request of the memorialists, and not, as at present, to the despatch of the mail to Sligo from Donegal, on the return journey, the Sligo mail would be subjected to a delay at Donegal of 20 hours, while the Dublin letters are now only delayed four hours. For this reason his Lordship is not prepared to sanction any disturbance of existing postal arrangements of the places in question.

His Lordship also directs me to state that, by increasing the speed of the mail car which serves Dunfanaghy, the inhabitants could be afforded a longer interval for replying to their letters, but that this course would entail an increased expenditure, which the amount of the correspondence for the district would by no means justify.

I am, &c.
(signed) *F. Hill.*

Letter from Mr. *Stewart* to the Postmaster General.

Ards, Castelmore, Strabane, County Donegal,
My Lord, 26 September 1859.

Being one of a deputation that waited on your Lordship on the 15th July last, and presented memorials from Donegal, Mountcharles, Killybegs, and Dunfanaghy, for the purpose of calling your Lordship's attention to the defective state of the postal arrangements, and suggesting means of improvements by sending mails by railways now completed, I now beg respectfully to inquire what decision the Post Office authorities have arrived at, as I can scarcely believe they can as yet have come to a decision, as I know from undoubted authority no inquiry has been made of one of the principal railway companies as to the terms of carrying the mails.

 Being

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Being a very large proprietor in this county, and much interested in its welfare, I venture to ask for an early reply, and to also express a hope that our grievances as regards local posts in the towns above mentioned, may be the subject of careful and prompt inquiry.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *Alex. J. R. Stewart.*

LETTER from Mr. *Frederic Hill* to Mr. *Stewart.*

Sir, General Post Office, 7 October 1859.

HAVING laid before the Postmaster General your letter of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the memorandum and the memorials from certain places in the north-western part of Ireland, presented to his Lordship by the deputation which waited on him on the 15th July last, I am directed to explain that the department, upon careful inquiry, found that the correspondence to be benefited was so small, as compared with the expense which would be unavoidable in the establishment of the proposed mail trains in the middle of the night, that it was not considered necessary to communicate with the railway companies, no offer which it would be in their power to make being such as the department could accept.

I beg to add, that the Postmaster General's decision in the case was communicated to Mr. Conolly, M. P., by whom the deputation was introduced, on the 6th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(signed) *F. Hill.*

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COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE with the Post Office Authorities, and the PETITIONS and MEMORIALS which have been presented from Places lying to the extreme North West of *Enniskillen*, praying that the POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS may be Improved, which preclude their answering Letters the Day of Receipt, &c.

(*Mr Conolly*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
21 *June* 1850.

Under 1 *oz.*

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